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EXAMINER

BELIVEAU, SCOTT E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/761,208	Applicant(s) HODGE ET AL.	
	Examiner Scott Beliveau	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged.

However, the provisional application upon which priority is claimed fails to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 1-28 of this application. The instant application is directed towards and claims subject matter pertaining to a digital headend that facilitates internal/external communications through a common shared bus and further serves to buffer of video, data and voice signals for distribution over the common bus. The earlier filing, however, fails to particularly disclose the usage of a common shared bus and particular arrangement of components as claimed. Accordingly, the claims of the instant application shall not receive the priority of the earlier filing and shall be examined based upon the filing of the instant application or 16 January 2001.

Applicants argue that support for the buffering of video, and voice signals is found in conjunction with the combiner [89] and the encoders [11/51-58] and that the common shared bus is located between the encoders and the diplexer. The examiner concurs that adequate support is found such that the encoders [11/51-58] act to buffer video, data, and voice signals. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees that support for the particular usage of a common bus as claimed is found. It is unclear as to what element in particular applicants are relying upon to provide adequate disclosure for the usage of a common shared bus. The cited passages set forth that the encoders are connected to the combiner through a plurality of separate RF output lines as opposed to a common shared bus. Furthermore, it is unclear as to how the claimed upstream communications are further being distributed through the same

common shared bus as claimed if the common shared bus is to be construed as the interconnecting output lines between the combiner and the encoders. The earlier filling is silent with respect to how the combiner and the diplexer are interconnected other than to set forth that the output is a single composite signal. This interconnection however cannot meet the claimed usage of a common shared bus since the single composite signal is not further being transmitted between the combiner and the diplexer to a downstream QAM module as claimed. The particular interconnection between the combiner and group of QAM modulators is similarly unclear with respect to the usage of a common shared bus or individual interconnections between the combiner and each of the disclosed group of QAM modules. Accordingly, the claims of the instant application are not considered to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 so as to receive the benefit of the earlier filling.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 22 September 2005. These drawings are accepted with respect to the previously raised objections. However, they are not accepted in light of the amendments to the claims.
3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the particular method step of “communicating said buffered plurality of [digital video signals, digital voice, and/or digital data signals], and said plurality of upstream communications across a common shared bus to a downstream module comprising a downstream QAM modulator” must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, common to claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 is language for “communicating . . . said plurality of upstream communications across a common shared bus to a downstream module comprising to a downstream module comprising a downstream QAM modulator”. As illustrated in Figure 5, upstream communications are sent across a common shared bus, however, they are not disclosed or illustrated as being further sent to a downstream module comprising a QAM modulator as opposed to an upstream NIM, processing module, or communication interface (IA: Page 25, Line 8 – Page 26, Line 8; Page 35, Line 16 – Page 37, Line 7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent

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any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci et al. (US Pat No. 6,498,667) in view of Rowan et al. (US Pat No. 6,407,843).

In consideration of claim 1, Figure 1 of the Masucci et al. reference illustrates a method for “combining a plurality of digital video signals, a plurality of digital data signals, and a plurality of upstream communications in a digital headend” [12] (Col 1, Lines 34-36; Col 3, Lines 46-69). As illustrated in Figure 2, the “digital headend” [12] “provides a video interface” [116] “for receiving said plurality of digital video signals within said digital headend”, a “data interface” [116] for “receiving said plurality of digital data signals within said digital headend”, and an “upstream communications interface for receiving said plurality of upstream communications within said digital headend” [116] transmitted upstream by the remote terminals [14] (Col 1, Lines 34-36). The system subsequently queues or “buffers said plurality of digital video signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital video signals” [110] and queues or “buffers said plurality of digital data signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital data signals” [110] and “communicates” the aforementioned “buffered plurality of . . . signals” along with “said plurality of upstream communications” intended for other terminals within the system “across a common shared bus [located on said digital headend]” which interconnects the aforementioned buffer [110] to a “downstream module”

[114] so as to permit the communication of data to/from the terminals [14] to/from the headend [12] (Col 5, Lines 33-41; Col 7, Lines 13-30).

With respect to the limitation such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator”, the Masucci et al. reference is silent with respect to the particular usage of QAM modulation in connection with the distribution of signals to the plurality of subscribers over the optical network. In a related art pertaining to broadband hardware systems, the Rowan et al. reference provides evidence of the particular usage of a “downstream module” [200] comprising a QAM modulator” [304] (Figure 3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify Masucci et al. such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator” for the purpose making more efficient usage of the available network bandwidth (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 6-9) and for further providing a means to transmit digital data over optical fibers at high aggregate data rates and with high bandwidth without unnecessarily increasing the speed requirements on the corresponding electronics (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 48-52).

In consideration of claim 7, Figure 1 of the Masucci et al. reference illustrates a method for “combining a plurality of digital data signals, a plurality of digital voice signals, and a plurality of upstream communications in a digital headend” [12] (Col 1, Lines 34-36; Col 3, Lines 46-69). As illustrated in Figure 2, the “digital headend” [12] “provides a data interface” [116] “for receiving said plurality of digital data signals within said digital headend”, a “voice interface” [116] for “receiving said plurality of digital voice signals within said digital headend”, and an “upstream communications interface for receiving said

plurality of upstream communications within said digital headend” [116] derived from the remote terminals [14] (Col 1, Lines 34-36). The system subsequently queues or “buffers said plurality of digital data signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital data signals” [110] and queues or “buffers said plurality of digital voice signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital voice signals” [110] and “communicates” the aforementioned “buffered plurality of . . . signals” along with “said plurality of upstream communications” intended for other terminals within the system “across a common shared bus [located on said digital headend]” which interconnects the aforementioned buffer [110] to a “downstream module” [114] so as to permit the communication of data to/from the terminals [14] to/from the headend [12] (Col 5, Lines 33-41; Col 7, Lines 13-30).

With respect to the limitation such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator”, the Masucci et al. reference is silent with respect to the particular usage of QAM modulation in connection with the distribution of signals to the plurality of subscribers over the optical network. In a related art pertaining to broadband hardware systems, the Rowan et al. reference provides evidence of the particular usage of a “downstream module” [200] comprising a QAM modulator” [304] (Figure 3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify Masucci et al. such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator” for the purpose making more efficient usage of the available network bandwidth (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 6-9) and for further providing a means to transmit digital data over optical fibers at high aggregate data rates and with high bandwidth without

unnecessarily increasing the speed requirements on the corresponding electronics (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 48-52).

In consideration of claim 13, Figure 1 of the Masucci et al. reference illustrates a method for “combining a plurality of digital video signals, a plurality of digital voice signals, and a plurality of upstream communications in a digital headend” [12] (Col 1, Lines 34-36; Col 3, Lines 46-69). As illustrated in Figure 2, the “digital headend” [12] “provides a video interface” [116] “for receiving said plurality of digital video signals within said digital headend”, a “voice interface” [116] for “receiving said plurality of digital voice signals within said digital headend”, and an “upstream communications interface for receiving said plurality of upstream communications within said digital headend” [116] derived from the remote terminals [14] (Col 1, Lines 34-36). The system subsequently queues or “buffers said plurality of digital video signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital video signals” [110] and queues or “buffers said plurality of digital voice signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital voice signals” [110] and “communicates” the aforementioned “buffered plurality of . . . signals” along with “said plurality of upstream communications” intended for other terminals within the system “across a common shared bus [located on said digital headend]” which interconnects the aforementioned buffer [110] to a “downstream module” [114] so as to permit the communication of data to/from the terminals [14] to/from the headend [12] (Col 5, Lines 33-41; Col 7, Lines 13-30).

With respect to the limitation such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator”, the Masucci et al. reference is silent with respect to the particular usage of QAM modulation in connection with the distribution of signals to the plurality of subscribers

over the optical network. In a related art pertaining to broadband hardware systems, the Rowan et al. reference provides evidence of the particular usage of a “downstream module” [200] comprising a QAM modulator” [304] (Figure 3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify Masucci et al. such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator” for the purpose making more efficient usage of the available network bandwidth (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 6-9) and for further providing a means to transmit digital data over optical fibers at high aggregate data rates and with high bandwidth without unnecessarily increasing the speed requirements on the corresponding electronics (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 48-52).

In consideration of claim 19, Figure 1 of the Masucci et al. reference illustrates a method for “combining a plurality of digital video signals, a plurality of digital data signals, a plurality of digital voice signals, and a plurality of upstream communications in a digital headend” [12] (Col 1, Lines 34-36; Col 3, Lines 46-69). As illustrated in Figure 2, the “digital headend” [12] “provides a video interface” [116] “for receiving said plurality of digital video signals within said digital headend”, a “data interface” [116] for “receiving said plurality of digital data signals within said digital headend”, a “voice interface” [116] for “receiving said plurality of digital voice signals within said digital headend”, and an “upstream communications interface for receiving said plurality of upstream communications within said digital headend” [116] derived from the remote terminals [14] (Col 1, Lines 34-36). The system subsequently queues or “buffers said plurality of data video signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital video signals” [110], queues or “buffers said plurality

of digital data signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital data signals” [110], and queues or “buffers said plurality of digital voice signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital voice signals” [110] and “communicates” the aforementioned “buffered plurality of . . . signals” along with “said plurality of upstream communications” intended for other terminals within the system “across a common shared bus [located on said digital headend]” which interconnects the aforementioned buffer [110] to a “downstream module” [114] so as to permit the communication of data to/from the terminals [14] to/from the headend [12] (Col 5, Lines 33-41; Col 7, Lines 13-30).

With respect to the limitation such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator”, the Masucci et al. reference is silent with respect to the particular usage of QAM modulation in connection with the distribution of signals to the plurality of subscribers over the optical network. In a related art pertaining to broadband hardware systems, the Rowan et al. reference provides evidence of the particular usage of a “downstream module” [200] comprising a QAM modulator” [304] (Figure 3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to provide a means to transmit digital data over optical fibers at high aggregate data rates and with high bandwidth without unnecessarily increasing the speed requirements on the corresponding electronics (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 48-52).

10. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci et al. (US Pat No. 6,498,667), in view of Rowan et al. (US Pat No. 6,407,843), and in further view of Humpleman (US Pat No. 5,940,387).

In consideration of claims 2, 8, 14, and 20, the reference discloses that “said plurality of upstream communications” are generated using remote customer terminals that subsequently output the received signal in the required customer format (Col 1, Line 6-13; Col 4, Lines 23-33; Col 4, Lin 65 – Col 5, Line 1). It is unclear, however, if the remote customer terminals [14] are equivalent to a “set top box” or are further interconnected to a “set top box” in order to facilitate the presentation of the received video signals. In a related art pertaining to distribution of video, telephony, and data, the Humpleman reference provides evidence that it is known to interconnect a “set top box” [40] to an in-home Ethernet network, which supports the aforementioned video, telephony, and data services, wherein the “set top box” [40] “generates said plurality of upstream communications” (Col 10, Line 62 – Col 10, Line 11). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the Masucci et al. reference so as to particularly utilize a “set top box” [40] interconnected to the remote terminal [14] for inherent advantages associated with the particular usage of a “set top box” in an interactive video distribution system as well as for the purpose of advantageously providing a means so as to facilitate the selection, presentation, and delivery of a wide range of external services within a home digital network (Humpleman: Col 1, Line 23-39).

Claims 3, 9, 15, and 21 are rejected wherein the system further comprises “generating said plurality of upstream communication with a distribution system” [10] (Masucci et al.: Col 3, Lines 29-45).

Claims 4, 10, 16, and 22, are rejected wherein the system further “optimizes communications” by prioritizing data to/from the common shared bus [16] “for said buffered

plurality of digital video signals, said buffered plurality of digital data signals, and said plurality of upstream communications across said common shared bus” (Masucci et al.: Col 5, Lines 54-56).

In consideration of claims 5, 17, and 23, the method comprises “digitally processing said plurality of digital video signals” [108] “prior to buffering said plurality of digital video signals” [110] when communicating in the downstream direction towards the remote terminals [14] (Masucci et al.: Figure 2).

In consideration of claims 6, 11, and 24, the method comprises “digitally processing said plurality of digital data signals” [108] “prior to buffering said plurality of digital data signals” [110] when communicating in the downstream direction towards the remote terminals [14] (Masucci et al.: Figure 2).

In consideration of claims 12, 18, and 25, the method comprises “digitally processing said plurality of digital voice signals” [108] “prior to buffering said plurality of digital voice signals” [110] when communicating in the downstream direction towards the remote terminals [14] (Masucci et al.: Figure 2).

In consideration of claim 26, Figure 1 of the Masucci et al. reference illustrates a method for “combining a plurality of digital video signals, a plurality of digital data signals, a plurality of digital voice signals, and a plurality of upstream communications in a digital headend” [12] (Col 1, Lines 34-36; Col 3, Lines 46-69). As illustrated in Figure 2, the “digital headend” [12] “provides a video interface” [116] “for receiving said plurality of digital video signals within said digital headend”, a “data interface” [116] for “receiving said plurality of digital data signals within said digital headend”, a “voice interface” [116] for

“receiving said plurality of digital voice signals within said digital headend”, and an “upstream communications interface for receiving said plurality of upstream communications” [116] “transmitted by the remote terminals [14] (Col 1, Lines 34-36). The system “digitally processing said plurality of digital video signals” [108], “digitally processing said plurality of digital data signals” [108] and “digitally processing said plurality of digital voice signals” [108] (Masucci et al.: Figure 2) and subsequently queues or “buffers said plurality of data video signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital video signals” [110], queues or “buffers said plurality of digital data signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital data signals” [110], and queues or “buffers said plurality of digital voice signals [and] generates a buffered plurality of digital voice signals” [110]. The aforementioned buffered data signals are “communicated . . . across a common shared bus [located on said digital headend]” which interconnects the buffer [110] to a “downstream module” [114] so as to permit the communication of data to/from the terminals [14] to the headend [12] (Col 5, Lines 33-41; Col 7, Lines 13-30).

With respect to the limitation such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM modulator”, the Masucci et al. reference is silent with respect to the particular usage of QAM modulation in connection with the distribution of signals to the plurality of subscribers over the optical network. In a related art pertaining to broadband hardware systems, the Rowan et al. reference provides evidence of the particular usage of a “downstream module” [200] comprising a QAM modulator” [304] (Figure 3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify Masucci et al. such that the “downstream module comprises a downstream QAM

modulator” for the purpose making more efficient usage of the available network bandwidth (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 6-9) and for further providing a means to transmit digital data over optical fibers at high aggregate data rates and with high bandwidth without unnecessarily increasing the speed requirements on the corresponding electronics (Rowan et al.: Col 2, Lines 48-52).

With respect to the limitation such that the “plurality of upstream communications are generated by at least one set-top box”, it is unclear if the remote customer terminals [14] of Masucci et al. are equivalent to a “set top box” or are further interconnected to a “set top box” in order to facilitate the presentation of the received video signals. In a related art pertaining to distribution of video, telephony, and data, the Humpleman reference discloses that the particular usage of interconnecting a “set top box” [40] to an in-home Ethernet network wherein the “set top box” [40] “generates said plurality of upstream communications” (Col 10, Line 62 – Col 10, Line 11). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the Masucci et al. reference so as to particularly utilize a “set top box” [40] interconnected to the remote terminal [14] for inherent advantages associated with the particular usage of a “set top box” in an interactive video distribution system as well as for the purpose of advantageously provide a means so as to facilitate the selection, presentation, and delivery of a wide range of external services within a home digital network (Humpleman: Col 1, Line 23-39).

Claim 27 is rejected wherein the system further “optimizes communications” by prioritizing data to/from the common shared bus [16] “for said buffered plurality of digital

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video signals, said buffered plurality of digital data signals, and said plurality of upstream communications across said common shared bus” (Masucci et al.: Col 5, Lines 54-56).

Claim 28 is rejected wherein the system further comprises “generating said plurality of upstream communication with a distribution system” [10] (Masucci et al.: Col 3, Lines 29-45).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as follows. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objections made.

- The Ebeling et al. (US Pat No. 5,208,491) reference provides evidence that FPGAs utilize common shared busses.
- The Laubach et al. (US Pat No. 6,917,614) reference discloses the particular usage of a high-speed broadband communication network which is operable to distribute a plurality of data types.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory

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period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Beliveau whose telephone number is 571-272-7343. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Scott Beliveau
Examiner
Art Unit 2614

SEB
December 10, 2005


JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600